



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item

4

Agenda Item No.

City Manager's Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Reg Murray, Senior Planner *RAM*
Date: August 22, 2011
Subject: Green Communities Program (Phase 2) by the Sierra Business Council

The Issue

Should the City Council authorize the City's participation in Phase 2 of the Green Communities Program offered by the Sierra Business Council.

Conclusions and Recommendation

The Auburn Community Development Department recommends that the City Council take the following action:

- A. By Resolution, authorize the Community Development Director to sign the Green Communities Phase 2 Participation Agreement on behalf of the City of Auburn.

Background/Analysis

In October, 2010, the Auburn City Council approved the City's participation in Phase 1 of the Green Communities Program (see Attachment 2). The Green Communities Program is a multi-phase program approved and overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), administered by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) using rate payer funds, and implemented in the Sierra Nevada region by the Sierra Business Council (SBC).

With Phase 1, the Program provided the City with a Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGE) inventory of government operations for the City in 2005. The City Council received the inventory, as well as a presentation on the report, earlier this year (March 14, 2011).

SBC and PG&E are now moving forward with Phase 2 of the Green Communities Program by offering to develop community-wide GHGE's inventories for local governments and communities in the Sierra Nevada region within PG&E's service areas. Based on the City of Auburn's participation in Phase 1, the City has been invited to participate in Phase 2 for the preparation of a community-wide inventory for our jurisdiction. A summary of the Green Communities Program (Phase 2) is provided as Attachment 1.

Alternatives Available to Council; Implications of Alternatives

- Authorize the City's participation in Phase 2 of the Green Communities Program.
- Do not authorize the City's participation in the Green Communities Program.
- Continue the request in order for staff to provide additional information for Council review.

Fiscal Impacts

No direct costs to the City. The Green Communities Program is funded by California utility customers and is administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. The City would commit staff hours to participate in the program. Participation would include training, providing information to the Sierra Business Council, and coordination of data collection.

Additional Information

Please see the following for more details:

ATTACHMENTS

1. Green Communities Phase 2 Program Summary
2. Council Report for Green Communities Program – October 2010

EXHIBITS

- A. Resolution with Green Communities Program (Phase 2) Participation Agreement



Green Communities/Sierra Nevada is a collaboration between Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("PG&E") and Sierra Business Council dedicated to providing innovative energy efficiency and climate change solutions for local governments and communities in the Sierra Nevada within PG&E service areas. The Green Communities program is funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

BACKGROUND

Through PG&E's Green Communities Program, Sierra Business Council will assist local governments in the Sierra Nevada in meeting statewide goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE). Growing awareness of the impacts of climate change on California communities along with state mandates has led to the need for climate action planning. Green Communities is a multi-phase program aimed at supporting local governments in that process. Green Communities - Phase 1, completed in June of this year, assisted 16 local governments in the Sierra Nevada to prepare GHGE inventories for municipal operations. In Green Communities - Phase 2, Sierra Business Council will build upon the success of Phase 1 by working with local governments to prepare community-wide GHGE inventories for their jurisdiction. The final phase of the program will focus on developing Climate Action Plans.

Green Communities - Phase 2 will be launched in the fall of 2011. As in Phase 1, this program will offer a training series at no cost to participants. Local government participants will be paired with trained interns to provide additional staffing needed to conduct data collection, analysis, and inventory development. At program's end, each participant will have a GHGE inventory at the community-wide level for their jurisdiction, quantifying GHGE resulting from 5 sectors within the community: the built environment, land use (agriculture and forestry), transportation, water and wastewater treatment, and solid waste.

Dependent on the receipt of additional grant funding, local governments that were not eligible to participate in Phase 1 due to energy sourcing from non-PG&E providers will have the opportunity to conduct a municipal operations inventory during Phase 2 of the program, in addition to the community-wide inventory.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CONDUCTING A GHGE INVENTORY?

A GHGE inventory is an important first step in a jurisdiction's climate protection initiative. Quantifying emissions establishes a baseline against which to measure future progress towards emission reductions projects and develops an understanding of the scale of emissions from the various sources within community-wide activities. With a better understanding of the sources of emissions, local governments can create policy and implement

projects to reduce emissions in their jurisdictions. The co-benefits of these measures may include lower energy bills for residents, improved air quality, and better land-use practices. And, equally if not more important, is that completing the GHGE inventory demonstrates to state agencies that the jurisdiction is moving forward on state emissions targets.

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Sierra Business Council will work closely with participating Sierra Nevada local governments to provide professional training and capacity building within their staff, and enlisting community interns to accomplish the bulk of the work. The program will use the "International Local Government Greenhouse Gas Emissions Protocol (IEAP)," the GHGE accounting tool, which was developed by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. The goal of the document is to provide local governments with a technically **sound** and **consistent** quantification methodology to develop GHGE inventories, establish a baseline, and track progress over time. The protocol includes calculation methodologies for five sectors at the community-wide level: the built environment, land use (agriculture and forestry), transportation, water and wastewater, and solid waste.

The selected local governments will receive (at no cost):

- Professional training for government staff, building capacity and providing the resources and skills necessary to understand the sources of GHGEs and steps necessary to complete the International Local Government GHG Emissions Protocol (IEAP) to be used to quantify GHGEs for sources within their communities.
- A paid intern, professionally trained to assist in the collection and processing of data and the completion of the IEAP.
- A year 2005 baseline assessment of community-wide GHGE quantification by sources and sector.
- A comprehensive GHGE inventory narrative report.
- A presentation of the report and findings to officials and/or staff.
- The jurisdiction will be eligible (dependent upon program funding) to participate in the final phase of the program: development of a Climate Action Plan.

SBC, in partnership with PG&E and ICLEI will strive to provide each participant with each of these benefits to the best of their ability. If for some reason the team is unable to meet the objectives stated, SBC will work with the jurisdiction to describe what measures need to be taken to complete the program satisfactorily. Any comments or complaints on the program will be received by SBC, shared with PG&E and/or ICLEI, and resolved in a manner that satisfies the participant, to the extent that any of the partners are able to, without incurring additional costs or burden to the partner or the participant.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The resources being offered through the Green Communities program are an opportunity that every eligible jurisdiction in the Sierra should consider. In order to qualify for participation in the second phase of the Green Communities program, the local government must be located in the designated region (listed below), sign an agreement to participate in the program and to authorize release of data, designate a qualified staff member (see below) to participate in all or part of the training, assist the intern with data collection needs, and review the draft report.

Designated Region:

Because the secured funding for the program is Public Goods Charge monies collected from ratepayers in PG&E service areas, local governments whose residents and businesses receive gas and/or electric service from PG&E are eligible. The designated region consists of all or portions of the following counties and cities:

- Lassen
- Plumas
- Sierra
- Nevada County, Nevada City, Grass Valley
- Placer County, Colfax, Auburn, Rocklin, Loomis, Lincoln, Roseville
- El Dorado County, Placerville
- Alpine County
- Amador County, Amador City, Jackson, Ione, Sutter Creek, Plymouth
- Calaveras County, Angels Camp
- Tuolumne County, Sonora
- Mariposa

Staff of Local Government

A qualified local government staff member:

- Will assist the intern in accessing and gathering the data in a timely manner
- Will attend an initial in-person group training in or near Sacramento plus consider attending up to 2 additional in-person group training sessions between September 2011 and January 2012. (A schedule will be developed to try to accommodate all participants' schedules.)
- Will review the draft report for accuracy and suggested revisions to language, taking into consideration the unique considerations for the jurisdiction.

The Green Communities program is also being offered in the Bay Area through the Association of Bay Area Governments. The program has already been completed in the Monterey Bay area by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments.

For further information, please contact Nicholas Martin or Emma Ingebretsen at Sierra Business Council:

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Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item
Agenda Item No. 3
City Manager's Approval

To:	Mayor and City Council Members
From:	Reg Murray, Senior Planner <i>RM</i>
Date:	October 11, 2010
Subject:	Green Communities Program by the Sierra Business Council

The Issue

Should the City Council authorize the City's participation in the Green Communities Program offered by the Sierra Business Council.

Conclusions and Recommendation

The Auburn Community Development Department recommends that the City Council take the following action:

- A. By Resolution, authorize the Community Development Director to sign the Green Communities Participation Agreement on behalf of the City of Auburn.

Background/Analysis

The Sierra Business Council (SBC) has invited the City of Auburn to participate in the Green Communities Program. The Green Communities Program is a multi-phase program approved and overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), administered by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) using rate payer funds, and implemented in the Sierra Nevada region by the Sierra Business Council. The program is intended to provide innovative energy efficiency and climate change solutions for local governments and communities in the Sierra Nevada region within PG&E service areas. Attachment 1 provides a summary of the Program, with additional background information found in Attachments 2 and 3.

The ultimate goal of the Green Communities Program is to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the Sierra Nevada, while promoting economic development, social fairness, and long-term environmental quality. Through the implementation of several energy efficiency programs, the Sierra Business Council has set specific goals related to energy conservation in the region and seeks to address and achieve these goals through a set of strategies that embrace and reinforce the broader sustainability objectives.

The purpose of the Green Communities Program is to engage, train and assist local governments to prepare greenhouse gas emissions inventories. Specifically, this program will offer a workshop training series at no cost to local government participants. Program participants will be paired with trained interns to provide additional staffing needed to conduct data collection, analysis, and inventory development. Local government program participants will also have free access to a software program, which will provide the participant with streamlined data collection and calculations of the inventory of emissions.

At the end of the Program, each participant will have a greenhouse gas inventory for their jurisdiction. Emissions inventories help to identify opportunities for energy savings and related operation cost savings for the City. A greenhouse gas inventory can be viewed as an energy audit tool for the City, pointing out where utilities usage is highest. The City can use this information to analyze and understand operational inefficiencies, providing a system for gaining efficiency and lowering energy related costs across the board.

The City's participation in the Program and conducting emissions inventories will also assist the City in future planning efforts, such as the development of a Climate Action Plan and the update of the City's General Plan. Emissions inventories can provide the City with baseline data for which the City can establish community-wide emission reductions through a broad range of integrated goals, objectives, policies and implementation measures.

As noted previously, the first phase of the Green Communities Program is to assist local governments to inventory greenhouse gas emissions from their municipal operations. Subsequent phases, depending on funding, may include conducting community wide green house gas emissions inventories and the development of coordinated assistance in preparing Climate Action Plans for local governments. The Sierra Business Council is funded to assist at least ten local governments in the Sierra Nevada region for the first phase of the program, and has selected the City of Auburn as one of the local governments to assist.

Most other jurisdictions in Placer County are participating in the Green Communities Program or are developing their own programs. Placer County and Loomis are currently committed to the upcoming program, while the City of Lincoln is in the process of seeking authorization to participate. The Cities of Roseville and Rocklin are currently developing their own programs using their own resources.

Alternatives Available to Council; Implications of Alternatives

- Authorize the City's participation in the Green Communities Program.
- Do not authorize the City's participation in the Green Communities Program.
- Continue the request in order for staff to provide additional information for Council review.

Fiscal Impacts

No direct costs to the City. The Green Communities Program is funded by California utility customers and is administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities

Commission. The City would commit staff hours to participate in the program. Participation would include training, providing information to the Sierra Business Council, and coordination of data collection.

Additional Information

Please see the following for more details:

ATTACHMENTS

1. Green Communities Program Summary
2. Local Government Opportunity
3. Green Communities Program Rationale

EXHIBITS

- A. Resolution with Green Communities Participation Agreement



Green Communities Program Summary
Sierra Business Council
August 2010

Through Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Green Communities Program, Sierra Business Council will assist local governments in the Sierra Nevada in meeting statewide goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Growing awareness of the impacts of global warming on California communities along with state mandates has led to the need for climate action planning. The Green Communities program will train and assist local governments to prepare Greenhouse Gas emissions inventories for municipal operations. Specifically, this program will offer a training series at no cost to participants. Local Government participants will be paired with trained interns to provide additional staffing needed to conduct data collection, analysis, and inventory development. At program's end, each participant will have a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for their jurisdiction.

Green Communities is a multi-phase program funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. The initial phase of the program is to inventory greenhouse gas emissions from local government operations; in latter phases, community wide greenhouse gas emissions inventories will be conducted; and the final phase is to develop Climate Action Plans. The initial phase will be launched during the fall of 2010.

BENEFITS OF CONDUCTING A GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

A greenhouse gas emissions inventory is an important first step in a jurisdiction's climate protection initiative. Quantifying emissions establishes a baseline against which to measure future progress and develops an understanding of the scale of emissions from the various sources within government operations. Local governments can dramatically reduce the emissions from their government operations by such measures as increasing energy efficiency in facilities and vehicle fleets, utilizing renewable energy sources, reducing waste, and conserving water. In addition to quantifying emissions, the inventory also provides the jurisdiction with collected energy usage data from all its operations, which can be used to target and track cost reduction efforts. The co-benefits of these measures may include lower energy bills, improved air quality and more efficient government operations. And, equally if not more important, is that completing the greenhouse emissions inventory demonstrates to state agencies that the jurisdiction is moving forward on state goals.

HOW YOUR INVENTORY WILL BE PRODUCED

PG&E's Green Communities program has engaged Sierra Business Council to work closely with Sierra Nevada local governments to provide professional training to their staff and to assist them in preparing greenhouse gas emissions inventories for municipal facilities and operations, and enlisting community interns to accomplish the bulk of the work. The program will use the "Local Government Operations Protocol," the greenhouse gas emissions accounting tool which has been adopted by the California Air Resources Board. The goal of the document is to provide local governments with a technically sound and consistent quantification methodology to develop greenhouse emission inventories, establish a baseline, and track progress over time. The protocol includes calculation methodologies for sources under operational control of local governments, including buildings and other facilities, streetlights and traffic signals, water delivery facilities, airport facilities, vehicle fleet, transit fleet, power generation facilities, solid waste facilities, wastewater facilities and other process and fugitive emissions.

WHO CAN ACCESS THIS OPPORTUNITY

The resources being offered through the Green Communities program is an opportunity that every eligible jurisdiction in the Sierra should consider. Sierra Business Council has received funding to assist ten

jurisdictions within the Sierra Nevada. Because the program is funded by the Public Goods Charge collected from ratepayers in PG&E service areas, only jurisdictions that receive gas and/or electric service from PG&E are eligible, accounting for 22 jurisdictions in the region served by the Sierra Business Council. The Green Communities program is also being offered in the Bay Area through the Association of Bay Area Governments and in the Central Valley through the Great Valley Center. The program has already been completed in the Monterey Bay area by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments.

The Green Communities program is based on the pilot completed in the Monterey Bay region in 2009. Sierra Business Council will select and convene ten local government participants and coordinate training workshops conducted by the organization who worked with the California Air Resources Board to develop the Protocol, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). Sierra Business Council will recruit and manage the interns, who will participate in the training along with the local government staff. Sierra Business Council will pair the interns with selected local government staff participants, providing additional staffing support needed to conduct data collections, analysis, emissions inventory development and, ultimately, a comprehensive report.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

The training will consist of three to four in-person trainings at a central location and two to three webinar trainings online. These trainings are a no cost opportunity for local governments to build capacity in the understanding of and response to climate change issues, both as they affect local communities and as regulatory requirements move forward. The training program and related data collection is currently scheduled to begin in October 2010 and continue through January 2011. The completion of the Local Government Operations Protocol and the resulting report will provide a useful tool for each jurisdiction to evaluate and improve their operations relative to greenhouse gas emissions, as well as begin meeting state requirements. Program participants will also have free access to a software program, which will provide the participant with streamlined data collection and calculations of their inventory of emissions. Final greenhouse gas emissions reporting and presentations to each jurisdiction are scheduled to be completed during the first quarter of 2011.

Following completion of the greenhouse gas inventory for local government operations, (although dependent on program funding) the jurisdiction will be eligible to participate in the next phase of the program, the community wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The final phase (dependent on program funding) of the Green Communities program will culminate in the development of a Climate Action Plan.

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Local Government Opportunity Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for Local Government Operations Green Communities

Green Communities/Sierra Nevada is a collaboration between Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("PG&E") and Sierra Business Council dedicated to providing innovative energy efficiency and climate change solutions for local governments and communities in the Sierra Nevada within PG&E service areas. The Green Communities program is funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

BACKGROUND

Through the Green Communities Program (the "Program"), Sierra Business Council will assist local governments in the Sierra Nevada in meeting statewide goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Growing awareness of the impacts of global warming on California communities along with state mandates has led to the need for climate action planning. Green Communities is a multi-phase program approved and overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) using rate payer funds.

Energy Efficiency Goals

With a growing population and increasing demand for energy, California has set goals for reducing emissions related to the generation and use of energy and for reducing dependence on fossil fuels. In response to these goals, the California Public Utilities Commission has refocused ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs on achieving a long-term transformation in the way Californians use energy. The California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan (CEESP), adopted in 2008, sets forth a roadmap for energy efficiency in California through the year 2020 and beyond. One of the sectors addressed in the CEESP is Local Governments, which are envisioned to be leaders in using energy efficiency both in their own facilities and throughout their communities.

The CPUC has long-recognized the unique role of local governments in fostering innovation and has directed utilities to develop programs that take advantage of the expertise of local governments in promoting the pursuit of energy efficiency and the reduction of GHGE. Green Communities is a multiphase program. The first phase of the Program is to assist local governments to inventory greenhouse gas emissions from their municipal operations; subsequent phases, depending on funding, may include conducting community wide greenhouse gas emissions inventories and the development of Climate Action Plans. The first phase will be launched during the summer of 2010.

The Sierra Nevada and Green Communities

In the Sierra Nevada, the Green Communities program is serving 27 jurisdictions in PG&E service areas. Sierra Business Council has been engaged by PG&E to manage this program and to assist local government in building their capacity in influencing the energy attitudes and actions of their citizens.

Sierra Business Council recognizes that a fundamental change in energy efficiency is required for the Sierra Nevada to meet its energy, environmental and economic needs for the future, and is committed to working collaboratively with communities, local governments, businesses, the construction industry, utilities, and developing other partnerships to achieve both short and long term success in achieving a sustainable energy future for California.

The goals of the Program are to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the Sierra Nevada, while promoting economic development, social fairness, and long-term environmental quality. The Sierra Business Council has set specific goals related to energy conservation in the region and seeks to address and

achieve these goals through a set of strategies that embrace and reinforce the broader sustainability objectives. In order to effectively transform energy consumption patterns, programs and activities must build the community support, political will, and labor and physical capacity to achieve full integration of clean energy technologies and maximize the variety of long-term opportunities and associated benefits as identified in the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan.

A goal of Sierra Business Council's energy programs is to engage Sierra Nevada municipal leadership in developing strategies aimed at a comprehensive and integrated energy infrastructure, maximizing the potential for clean energy. The Program simultaneously addresses climate change and energy efficiency. The funding is focused on climate change and the co-benefit is energy savings. The Program provides the opportunity to gather data and organize it to meet logistic and legal needs, using the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) approved methodologies developed in part by ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability. It establishes a 2005 baseline for Greenhouse Gas Emissions by sector and quantifies energy used by sector. It gathers pertinent data in one place, processes it and generates a report which can be used to address the energy needs of the jurisdiction and its unique circumstances and levels of commitment and capacity in energy efficiency and climate action.

SYNOPSIS

Assistance to Local Governments

The Green Communities program will engage, train and assist local governments to prepare Greenhouse Gas emissions inventories for municipal operations (the "Program"). Specifically, the Program will offer a workshop series at no cost to selected participants. For eligibility criteria and selection process, please see the "Selection of Participants" section below. Program participants will be paired with trained interns to provide additional staffing needed to conduct data collection, analysis, and inventory development. Program participants will also have free access to a software program- hosted, maintained and provided by ICLEI, which will provide the participant with streamlined data collection and calculations of their inventory of emissions. The goal of the program is to provide each participant with a comprehensive Greenhouse Gas Inventory for their jurisdiction's municipal operations.

The Program may also offer training and resources for those participants that have already developed an inventory and need to update it.

Benefits to participating

Sierra Business Council has received funding to assist up to ten (10) local government jurisdictions in conducting a comprehensive Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGE) Inventory. The selected jurisdictions will receive (at no cost):

- Professional training for government staff, providing the resources and skills necessary to understand the sources of GHGEs and steps necessary to complete a Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP) designed by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), and approved by the California Air Resources Board; to be used to quantify GHGEs for sources under operational control of local governments. These sources include buildings and other facilities, streetlights and traffic signals, water delivery facilities, airport facilities, vehicle fleet, transit fleet, power generation facilities, solid waste facilities, wastewater facilities and other process and fugitive emissions.
- A paid intern professionally trained to assist in the collection and processing of data, and the completion of the LGOP.
- A year 2005 baseline assessment of GHGE quantification by sources and sector of local government operations.
- A comprehensive GHGE inventory report.
- A presentation of the report and findings to officials and/or staff.

- Qualification to proceed with subsequent phases of the Green Communities program, with potential assistance with completion of a community wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory, and eventually a Climate Action Plan.

SBC, in partnership with PG&E and ICLEI will strive to provide each participant with each of these benefits to the best of their ability. If for some reason the team is unable to meet the objectives stated, SBC will work with the jurisdiction to describe what measures need to be taken to complete the program satisfactorily. Any comments or complaints on the program will be received by SBC, shared with PG&E and/or ICLEI, and resolved in a manner that satisfies the participant, to the extent that any of the partners are able to, without incurring additional costs or burden to the partner or the participant.

Qualification

In order to qualify for participation in the first phase of the Green Communities program, the local government must be located in the designated region (listed below), be a customer of PG&E, sign an agreement to participate in the program and to authorize release of data, designate a qualified staff member to participate in all or part of the training, assist the intern with data collection needs, and review the draft report.

- **Designated Region**

The designated region consists of all or portions of the following counties and cities

- Lassen
- Plumas
- Sierra
- Nevada County, Nevada City, Grass Valley
- Placer County, Colfax, Auburn, Rocklin, Loomis, Lincoln, Roseville
- El Dorado County, Placerville
- Alpine County
- Amador County, Amador City, Jackson, Ione, Sutter Creek, Plymouth
- Calaveras County, Angels Camp
- Tuolumne County, Sonora
- Mariposa

- **Customer of PG&E**

To be considered a customer of PG&E, the local government should receive a portion of its electricity and/or natural gas from PG&E. Emissions from sources not provided by PG&E will also be calculated, although PG&E will not fund these efforts.

- **Staff of Local Government**

A qualified local government staff member:

- Will have sufficient experience within the jurisdiction to identify sources of data (electricity consumption, stationary combustion, and fugitive emissions data) from the required emissions sectors owned and operated by the participating County/City.

Sectors include:

- Buildings and Other Facilities
- Streetlights and Traffic Signals
- Water Delivery Facilities
- Wastewater Facilities
- Port and Airport Facilities
- Vehicle and Transit Fleet
- Power Generation Facilities

- Solid Waste Facilities
- Other Process and Fugitive Emissions
- Employee Commutes
- Government Generated Solid Waste
- Contracted Services
- Will facilitate the intern's gathering of the data.
- Will assist the intern in accessing and gathering the data in a timely manner
- Will attend an initial in-person group training in or near Sacramento plus consider attending up to 3 additional in-person group training sessions and up to 3 webinar based trainings between September 2010 and January 2011. (A schedule will be developed to try to accommodate all participants' schedules.)
- Will to review the draft report for accuracy and suggested revisions to language, taking into consideration the unique considerations for the jurisdiction.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Local Governments

All qualified local government should consider participation in the Green Communities program. Sierra Business Council is funded to assist a maximum of 10 local governments in the Sierra Nevada in the first phase, and is currently reaching out to local government staff and officials through materials, phone calls, and meetings plus a survey developed by the partners in the program. In addition to the Sierra Nevada, the other partners are the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Great Valley Center. The Program is modeled on a pilot conducted Fall of 2009 by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, another partner who is entering the second phase of the Program. The selection of the ten (10) Sierra Nevada local governments will be at the sole discretion of Sierra Business Council and will be based, in part, on a timely response to solicitation, level of interest, and local government staff capacity and other criteria.

Interns

Sierra Business Council is currently in the process of hiring qualified interns to assist local governments in completing the greenhouse gas emissions inventory for local government operations. The Interns will be trained in the Local Government Operations Protocol, the tool used to process the data and generate the draft report. The interns will have sufficient background to understand and use the tool and to work efficiently and effectively with local government staff. Each local government participant will be paired with one lead intern.



Green Communities Program
Rationale for proactive efforts to complete a Local Government Operations
Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory

Overview

Local governments often have broad influence and exclusive authority over many activities that contribute significant impacts on energy usage related to operations throughout their jurisdictions. Reductions in energy usage could potentially save American taxpayers millions of dollars each year. By adopting cost-effective strategies related to improving energy efficiency of municipal facilities and operations, local governments provide ways to reduce costs, stimulate the local economy, meanwhile reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

California's record of entrepreneurial success and forward thinking on current issues has provided the platform necessary to foster strategic planning, innovative thinking, and early action related to the imminent need for reduced per capita energy consumption. The State of California has taken a proactive role in responding to issues related to mitigating the impacts of changes in climate through the development of several policies, regulations and recommendations for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE) on a large scale. California has begun scoping a plan which places some focus on emissions resulting from local government operations¹. By starting at the local government level, the State is developing a model to learn from; a model which could eventually be studied and implemented by other cities, counties, states, and countries on a large scale basis.

Planning for implementation of these policies has already begun, providing ample time for local governments to act early and begin preparing to comply with such policies. There are also many financial incentives available to local governments interested in beginning the process now, some of which Sierra Business Council has access to and has the necessary resources available to assist interested participants through the process of monitoring GHGEs related to local government operations.

Regulatory compliance

When implemented, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (also known as Assembly Bill 32 or AB 32) will carry several policies forward which affect local government activities. AB 32 has set a goal for local governments to reduce GHGEs by 15% by 2020.² By acting now and realizing the reductions already achieved from recent retrofits, facility changes, and reduction in staff due to budgetary limitations, local governments can show early action related to upcoming legislation. By doing its baseline inventory now, the jurisdiction will also be better positioned to claim any improvements from here forward as emissions reduction under any new regulations.

The State Attorney General's office has also recommended that local governments begin to address climate change at the project level³, providing the opportunity for local governments to become leaders in ensuring that sustainability is considered at the earliest stages of project development. By taking this early action approach, local governments are more in line to shape private development in the long term as they will possess the data, skills, and resources necessary to analyze impacts and develop requirements for feasible changes or alternatives

¹ <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm>

² <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm>

³ http://www.ag.ca.gov/globalwarming/pdf/GW_mitigation_measures.pdf



which substantially lessen the impacts on the atmosphere. GHGE inventories will help with the CEQA analysis, while also demonstrating that the jurisdiction is making a good faith effort to evaluate and mitigate impacts on the climate from planned development. The Attorney General's office and the Office of Planning and Research have made it clear that this type of analysis is required, as evidenced by the San Bernardino County litigation⁴. With the passage of Senate Bill 97 in 2007 (Public Resources Code, § 21083.05)⁵, and the 2010 CEQA Guidelines Update⁶, it appears as though there is no longer any dispute that climate change is an environmental impact within the scope of CEQA.

By working with the Local Government Operations Protocol⁷ (developed by ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability, the California Air Resources Board, and the California Climate Action Reserve) local governments will gain knowledge in the principles, approach, methodology, and procedures needed to develop a local government operations greenhouse gas inventory. These inventories will be developed using standards that are consistent, comparable, transparent, and recognized nationally, ultimately enabling the measurement of emissions over time.

General Plan Updates

Many local governments have begun to recognize the benefits of addressing greenhouse gas emissions during the general plan update at the programmatic or "big picture" level. More and more, cities and counties are creating "Climate Action Plans" and "Sustainability Plans" that reduce community-wide emissions through a broad range of integrated goals, objectives, policies and implementation measures.

Under California law, cities and counties are required to prepare a general plan and to update it regularly. General plans are in the nature of a "constitution" for development, shaping the community for decades to come. Because general plan updates are "projects" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and because updates may have significant impacts, a local government updating its general plan usually is required to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Under CEQA, lead agencies must consider not only the short-term impacts of the decisions we make today, but also the potential for those decisions to affect the quality of life of our children and grandchildren. "The maintenance of a quality environment for the people of this state *now and in the future* is a matter of statewide concern." (Pub. Res. Code, § 21000, subd. (c).)(emphasis added).⁸ Simply permitting "business as usual" land use and development is not sustainable.

The update process and the accompanying EIR provide a significant opportunity for local governments to consider long-term sustainability. In some communities, the long-term sustainability of water supplies may be particularly important, especially in our changing climate. In others, there may be a desire to maintain a sustainable agriculture industry, or to create a sustainable forest products industry based on smaller diameter timber and biomass. Every community, however, has an obligation to consider how its general plan update may affect its community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and their cumulative impacts, and to take affirmative,

⁴ http://ag.ca.gov/cms_pdfs/press/2007-08-21_San_Bernardino_settlement_agreement.pdf

⁵ http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/publications/legislation/SB_97_bill_20070824_chaptered.pdf

⁶ <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/>

⁷ <http://www.icleiusa.org/programs/climate/ghg-protocol>

⁸ <http://www.ag.ca.gov/globalwarming/ceqa/generalplans.php>



decisive action to reduce and control these emissions. As the Air Resources Board has stated, "local governments are 'essential partners' in achieving California's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They have broad influence and, in some cases, exclusive authority over activities that contribute to significant direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions through their planning and permitting processes, local ordinances, outreach and education efforts, and municipal operations."⁹

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plans

Addressing cumulative impacts at the programmatic, general plan level - provided it's done right - allows for the streamlined CEQA review of individual projects. Where emissions are adequately addressed at the plan level, a lead agency may determine that projects that are consistent with the plan will not have significant greenhouse gas-related impacts.

In its March 2009 CEQA Guidelines update, the Resources Agency added a new provision, Section 15183.5¹⁰, which provides a framework for programmatic greenhouse gas emissions reduction plans. An adequate plan must:

- Quantify existing and projected community-wide greenhouse gas emissions;
- Establish greenhouse gas emissions targets over the life of the plan which, if achieved, would render the community's greenhouse gas emissions to be less than significant;
- Identify and analyze the greenhouse gas emissions resulting sources in the community;
- Identify a suite of specific, enforceable measures that, collectively, will achieve the emissions targets;
- Establish a mechanism to monitor the plan's progress and to require amendment if the plan is falling short;
- Be adopted in a public process following environmental review.

Fiscal Incentives

Emissions inventories help to identify opportunities for energy savings and related operational cost savings. An end product of the inventory process is a "Master Data Workbook" containing all of the energy data from local government operations for a chosen year. A GHGE inventory can be viewed as an energy audit tool, pointing out where utility usage is highest; therefore a GHGE inventory is directly related to outflow of government funds. Jurisdictions can use this information to analyze and understand operational inefficiencies, providing a metric for gaining efficiency and lowering energy related costs across the board.

Sierra Business Council (SBC) has been contracted to manage several of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E)'s energy efficiency programs throughout the Sierra Nevada. Not only does participation in the first phase of Green Communities allow a jurisdiction to become eligible for future phases (community-wide inventory, and Climate Action Plan), but it could lead to other opportunities, including participation in the Sierra Nevada Energy Watch (audit and retrofit program) and the Innovator Pilot Project (workforce training for

⁹ <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/localgovernment/localgovernment.htm>

¹⁰ <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/>



operators and minorities) as well as receiving assistance with Energy section updates in their general plan (a goal of the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan). For more information on these programs, please contact the Green Communities Program Manager.

As mentioned, this opportunity results from the first phase of funding from the California Public Utilities Commission to PG&E. Subsequent phases potentially include community wide inventories and eventually a Climate Action Plan. Jurisdictions could expect to pay consultant fees for a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, with additional costs for analysis and development of the reports and strategic planning. These services are available at no cost by participating in the Green Communities program. By choosing to participate, the local government can mitigate the risk of incurring these costs if inventories become a requirement of the State Attorney General or future legislation.

By taking this early action step to reducing their energy usage while quantifying their impacts on the atmosphere, jurisdictions are finding new opportunities for federal and state grant funding. There are many financial resources available to local governments related to climate action planning, energy efficiency and conservation, technical assistance, renewables funding, as well as access to financing and low interest loans, rebate programs, assistance programs, federal tax incentives, and utility incentives¹¹. Participation in the Green Communities could be used as a match for many of these programs and other offered to local governments in the future¹².

Climate Change

According to the California Office of the Attorney General, global warming and disruptive climate change pose great risks for California. Climate change will result in more frequent and more intense forest fires, more air pollution and deadly heat waves, a significant reduction in the snowpack and state water supplies, sea level rise and erosion along California's long coastline, as well as billions of dollars in damage to our agricultural, tourism, recreation, and other industries¹³. By taking the proactive steps to calculating, reducing, and monitoring GHGE reductions in the near future, local governments can reduce potential costs to the state and their jurisdictions, as well as the environment.

¹¹ <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/article/financial-resources>

¹² http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/funding/2010_04_22_Planning_Grant_Guidelines_FINAL_REVISIED.pdf

¹³ <http://www.ag.ca.gov/globalwarming/>

EXHIBIT A

RESOLUTION NO. 10-_____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE GREEN COMMUNITIE PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Sierra Business Council proposes to arrange for professional training and support to assist the City of Auburn in quantifying greenhouse gas emissions of City facilities and operations, and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Business Council's work is supported by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Green Communities Program, a program funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utility Commission, and

WHEREAS, participation in the Green Communities Program will provide the City of Auburn with the opportunity to develop greenhouse gas emissions inventories, establish a baseline and track progress and thereby undertake an analysis of its greenhouse gas emissions at minimal cost and commitment of staff resources, and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn desires to participate in the Green Communities Program on the terms and conditions as set forth in the attached Green Communities Participation Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Auburn:

The City Council of the City of Auburn hereby authorizes the Community Development Director to sign a Participation Agreement for the Green Communities Program administered by the Sierra Business Council.

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DATED: October 11, 2010

Bridget Powers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk

I, Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk of the City of Auburn, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a regular meeting of the City of Auburn held on October 11, 2010 by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk



Green Communities Participation Agreement

Green Communities Program

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

City of Auburn and Sierra Business Council

Through support from Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Green Communities Program, Sierra Business Council (SBC) will be working directly with selected local governments in the Sierra Nevada region to assist them in quantifying greenhouse gas emissions. Through this effort, SBC will arrange technical tools, professional training and support for local governments to complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory of their facilities and operations, using the Local Government Operations Protocol. SBC will provide resources to local governments by training dedicated local government staff and providing community interns. Green Communities is a program funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utility Commission.

City of Auburn ("the jurisdiction") would like to be enrolled as a participant in the Green Communities Program. By agreeing to participate, the jurisdiction agrees to the following:

- ② Sign off on official participation agreement (this document)
- ② Provide other available data related to the inventory
- ② Encourage local government employees to complete a commute survey
- ② Commits to assigning a staff person to: attend training workshops, assist the intern in connecting with key staff for the purposes of data collection, provide information on the jurisdiction, and review the inventory final report.
- ② Release of 2005 government operations electricity and natural gas consumption data for the jurisdiction (2005 DTL File) by PG&E to SBC upon email request and receipt of this signed agreement.

In return, SBC agrees to provide the following throughout the project period:

- ② Training for local government staff in preparation and interpretation of the Local Government Operations Protocol
- ② An intern trained to assist government staff to conduct the local greenhouse gas emissions inventory, process the data and complete the report. The inventory will include baseline emissions from government operations, reported by sector. This agreement does not commit SBC to performing emissions analysis of specific plans or development projects.
- ② Dissemination of climate protection resource materials as approved by the jurisdiction.
- ② Presentation of the final report to the jurisdiction.

By signing below, the jurisdiction agrees to participate in this initiative through the life of the project from October 2010 through February 2011.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is executed by

City of Auburn

Signature: _____

Print Name & Title: _____

Date: _____

and Sierra Business Council

Signature: _____

Print Name & Title: _____

Date: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 11-_____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE GREEN COMMUNITIES
PROGRAM (PHASE 2) OFFERED BY THE SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Sierra Business Council proposes to arrange for professional training and support to assist the City of Auburn in preparing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE) inventories for the City, and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Business Council's work is supported by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Green Communities Program, a program funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utility Commission, and

WHEREAS, participation in the Green Communities Program will provide the City of Auburn with the opportunity to develop community-wide GHGE inventories at minimal cost and commitment of staff resources, and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn desires to participate in the Green Communities Program on the terms and conditions as set forth in the attached Green Communities Participation Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Auburn:

The City Council of the City of Auburn hereby authorizes the Community Development Director to sign a Participation Agreement for the Green Communities Program (Phase 2) administered by the Sierra Business Council.

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DATED: August 22, 2011

William W. Kirby, M.D., Mayor

ATTEST:

Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk

I, Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk of the City of Auburn, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a regular meeting of the City of Auburn held on August 22, 2011 by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk

Green Communities Phase 2 Local Government Participation Agreement

Green Communities Program PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

_____ and Sierra Business Council
Name of Jurisdiction

Through support from Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Green Communities Program, Sierra Business Council (SBC) will be working directly with selected local governments in the Sierra Nevada region to assist them in quantifying greenhouse gas emissions. Through this effort, SBC will arrange technical tools, professional training and support for local governments to complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory of the community's activities, using ICLEI's International Local Government Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Analysis Protocol (IEAP)¹. SBC will resource local governments through dedicated local government staff and university or community interns. Green Communities is a program funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utility Commission.

_____ ("the jurisdiction") would like to be enrolled as a participant in the 2nd Phase of the Green Communities Program.

By agreeing to participate, the signed jurisdiction agrees to the following:

- Sign off on official participation agreement (this document)
- Provide other available data related to the inventory
- Commitment to assign a staff person to attend training workshops, to assist the Intern in connecting with key staff for the purposes of data collection, to provide information on the jurisdiction, to review the inventory final report, and to facilitate scheduling of board/council presentation(s) of results
- Release of 2005 community-wide aggregate energy use data for the jurisdiction upon email request from Sierra Business Council to PG&E

In return, SBC agrees to provide the following throughout the project period:

- Training for local government staff in preparation and interpretation of the IEAP
- An intern trained to assist government staff to conduct the local greenhouse gas emissions inventory, process the data and complete the report. The inventory will include baseline emissions on the community level, reported by sector. This agreement does not commit SBC to performing emissions analysis of specific plans or development projects
- Dissemination of climate protection resource materials as approved by the jurisdiction
- Presentation of the final report to the jurisdiction

By signing below, the jurisdiction agrees to participate in this initiative through the life of the project from August 2011 through March 2012.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is executed by:

Local Government Representative

SBC Program Manager

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

¹ http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Global/Programs/GHG/LGGHGEmissionsProtocol.pdf